## REMARKS

Claims 1 through 31 are pending in this application. Claims 17 and 26 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 32 through 37 are hereby added. In addition, claims 13 and 23 are hereby amended.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the language "are disclosed". Accordingly, a substitute Abstract is hereby submitted for approval. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 through 10, 12, 13, 15 through 20, 22, 23, 25 through 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,148,261 to Obradovich, et al. ("Obradovich, et al. patent"). Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 through 13, 15 through 20, 22, 23, 25 through 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,546,092 to Kurokawa, et al. ("Kurokawa, et al. patent"). Claims 2, 3, 14 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either the Obradovich, et al. patent or the Kurokawa, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,491 to Lima ("Lima patent"). Claims 21 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Obradovich, et al. patent or the Kurokawa, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,331,602 to McLaren ("McLaren patent").

Claim 1 provides a positioning support device for placement near a navigational feature. Claims 13 and 23 are amended to provide similar language by incorporating the limitations of claims 17 and 26, hereby canceled. In contrast, the satellites described by the Obradovich, et al.



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patent, the Kurokawa, et al. patent, and the Lima patent and the buoys described by the McLaren patent are not positioned near any type of navigational feature, as required by claims 1, 13 and 23. Therefore, claims 1, 13 and 23 distinguish patentably from the Obradovich, et al. patent, the Kurokawa, et al. patent, the Lima patent, the McLaren patent, and any combination of these patents.

Claims 2 through 12, 14 through 22, and 24 through 31 depend from and include all limitations of independent claims 1, 13 and 23, respectively. Therefore, claims 2 through 12, 14 through 22, and 24 through 31 distinguish patentably from the Obradovich, et al. patent, the Kurokawa, et al. patent, the Lima patent, the McLaren patent, and any combination of these patents for the reasons stated above for claims 1, 13 and 23.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 through 31 are respectfully requested.

New claims 32 through 37 are presented to more clearly cover Applicants' system, unit and method. Support for the recitations of new claims 32 through 37 are provided at page 3, lines 14 through 18, of the specification. Allowance of new claims 32 through 37 is believed warranted.

## CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope



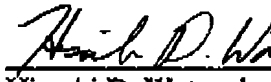
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of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

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It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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06/18/03
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